(b) what new missiles and aircrafts is likely to be added in the Army, Air Force and Navy in next three years; and

(c) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) New armament is being inducted into the three Services on an on-going basis in keeping with security imperatives and threat perception from time to time. It would not be in the interest of national security to give precise details of these inductions.

Proximation of Pakistani artilleries to international border and LoC

†2803. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani forces have brought their Artilleries nearer to the International Border and Line of Control;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a horrifying atmosphere among the inhabitants of border area as the neighbouring country has targeted its artilleries towards Indian region; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no fresh report of Pakistan having moved its artillery nearer to the International Border. However, deployment of Pakistan's artillery close to the LoC is a permanent feature. Firing of artillery and mortar by Pakistan across the LoC is an ongoing process during which, at times, Pakistan targets the border villages to cause civilian casualties and damages.

The Government is aware of the anxiety and concern of the inhabitants of border areas, and has redeployed the Armed Forces on the International Border with Pakistan without impairing their capacity to respond decisively to any emergency and without lowering of the vigil in Jammu & Kashmir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.